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(54) **DETERGENT SUPPLY APPARATUS OF WASHING MACHINE**

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134/99.2, 100.1, 200; 68/17 R, 207

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Disclosed herein is a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine, which installs a liquid detergent container in a powdered detergent chamber of a detergent container. The liquid detergent container makes it possible to mix and supply liquid detergent and water, which allows liquid detergent to be conveniently placed in, moreover, decoloration and discoloration of laundry to be prevented.

15 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets

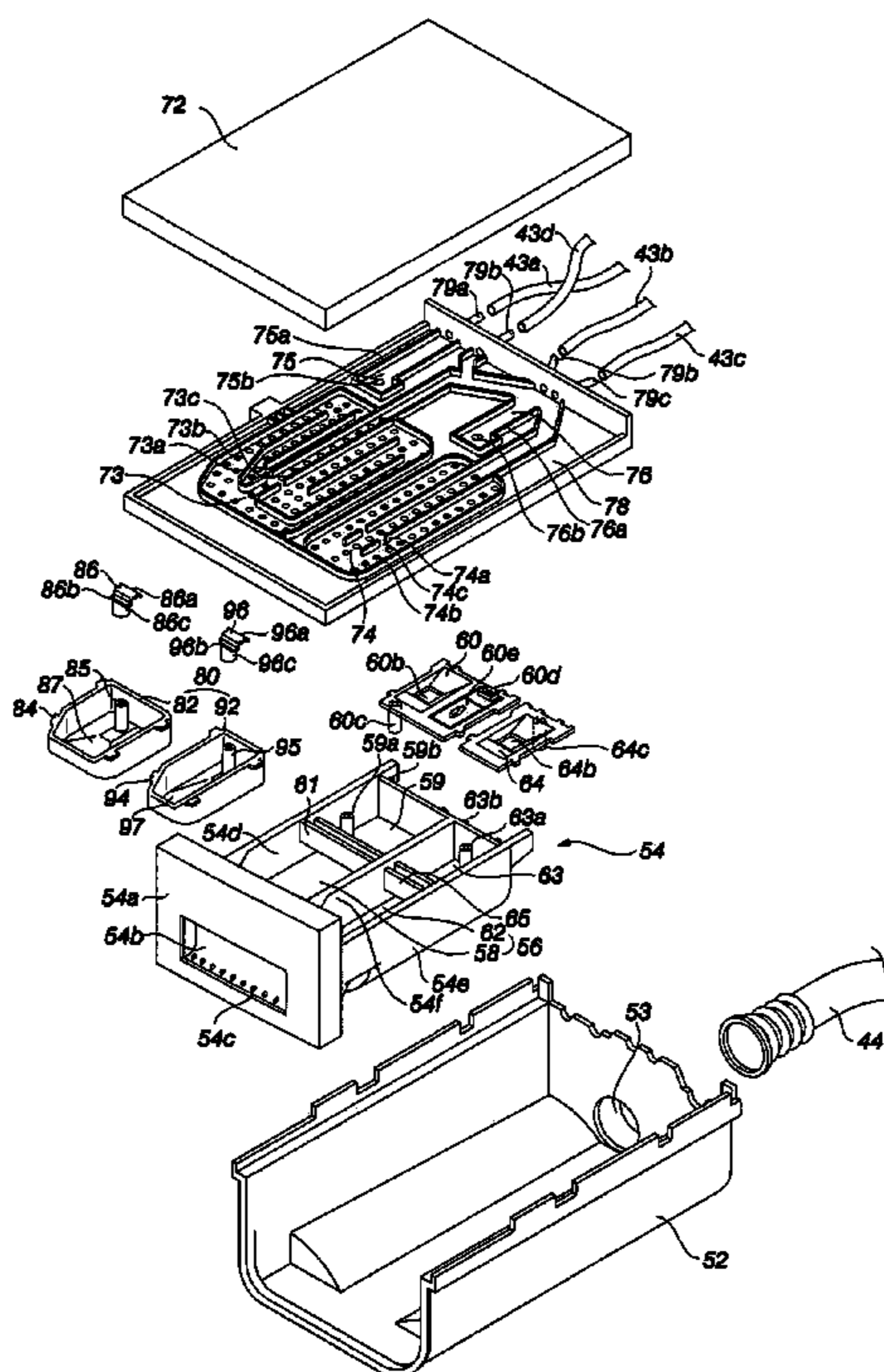


FIG. 1

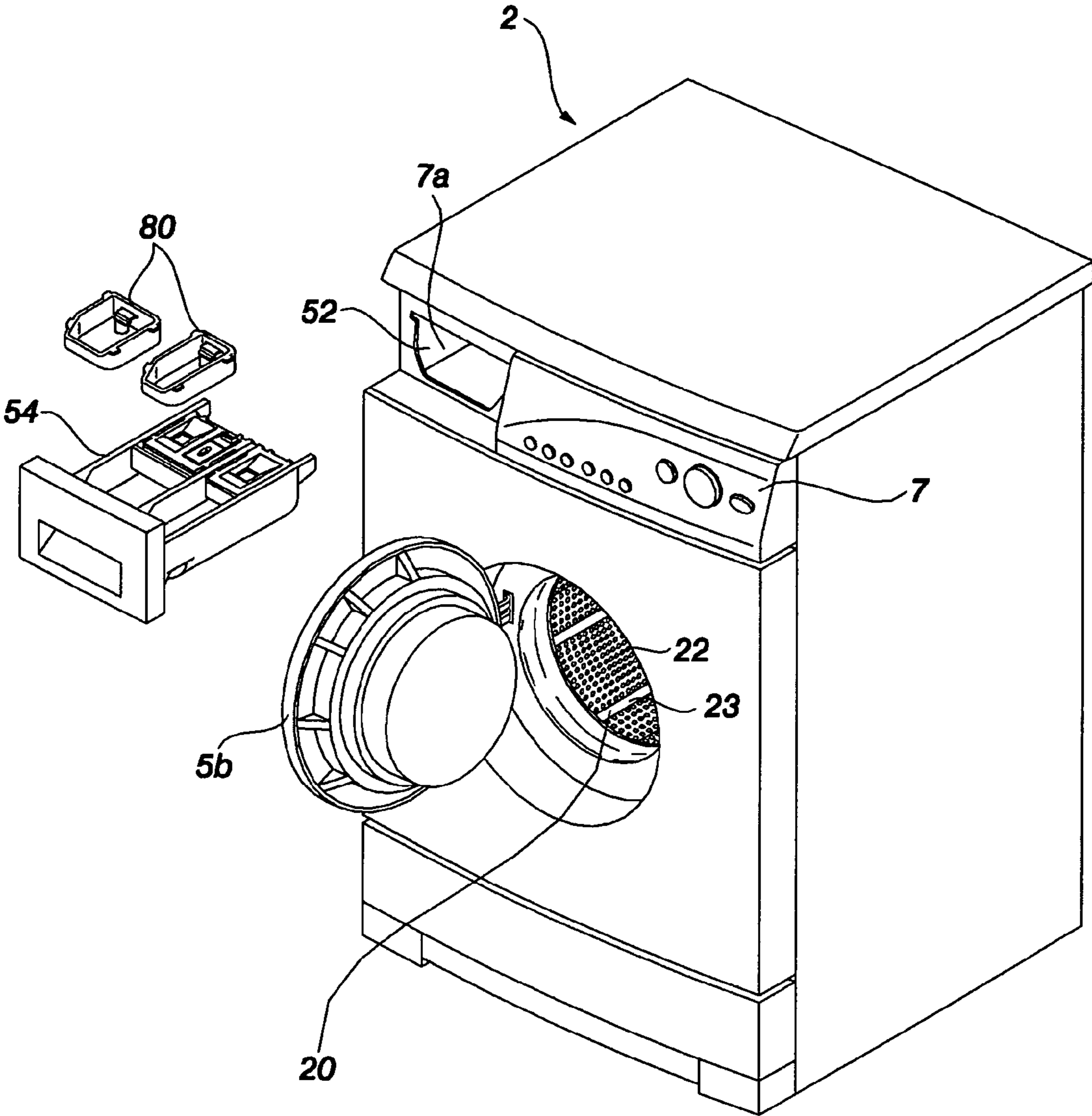


FIG. 3

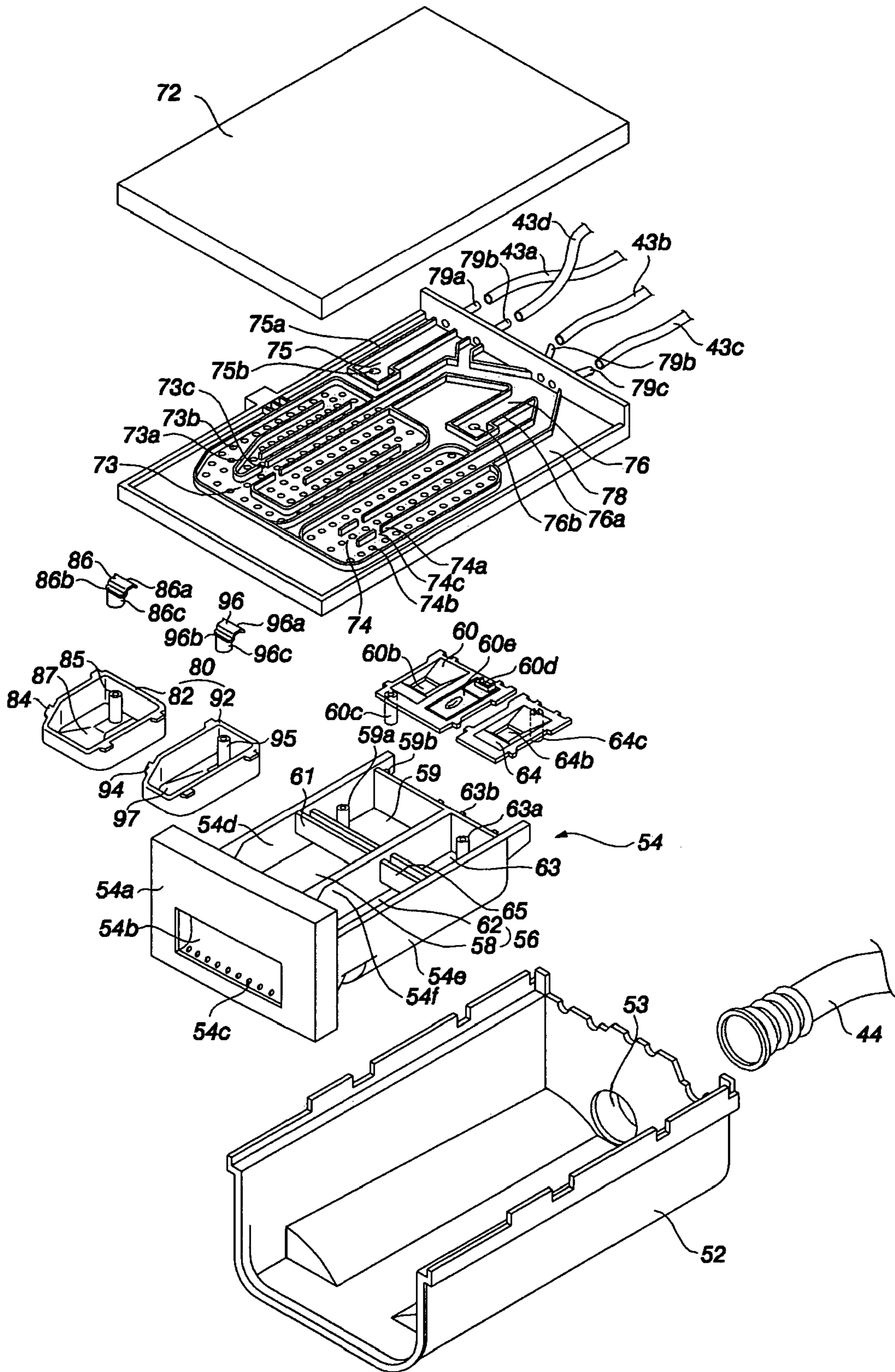


FIG. 4

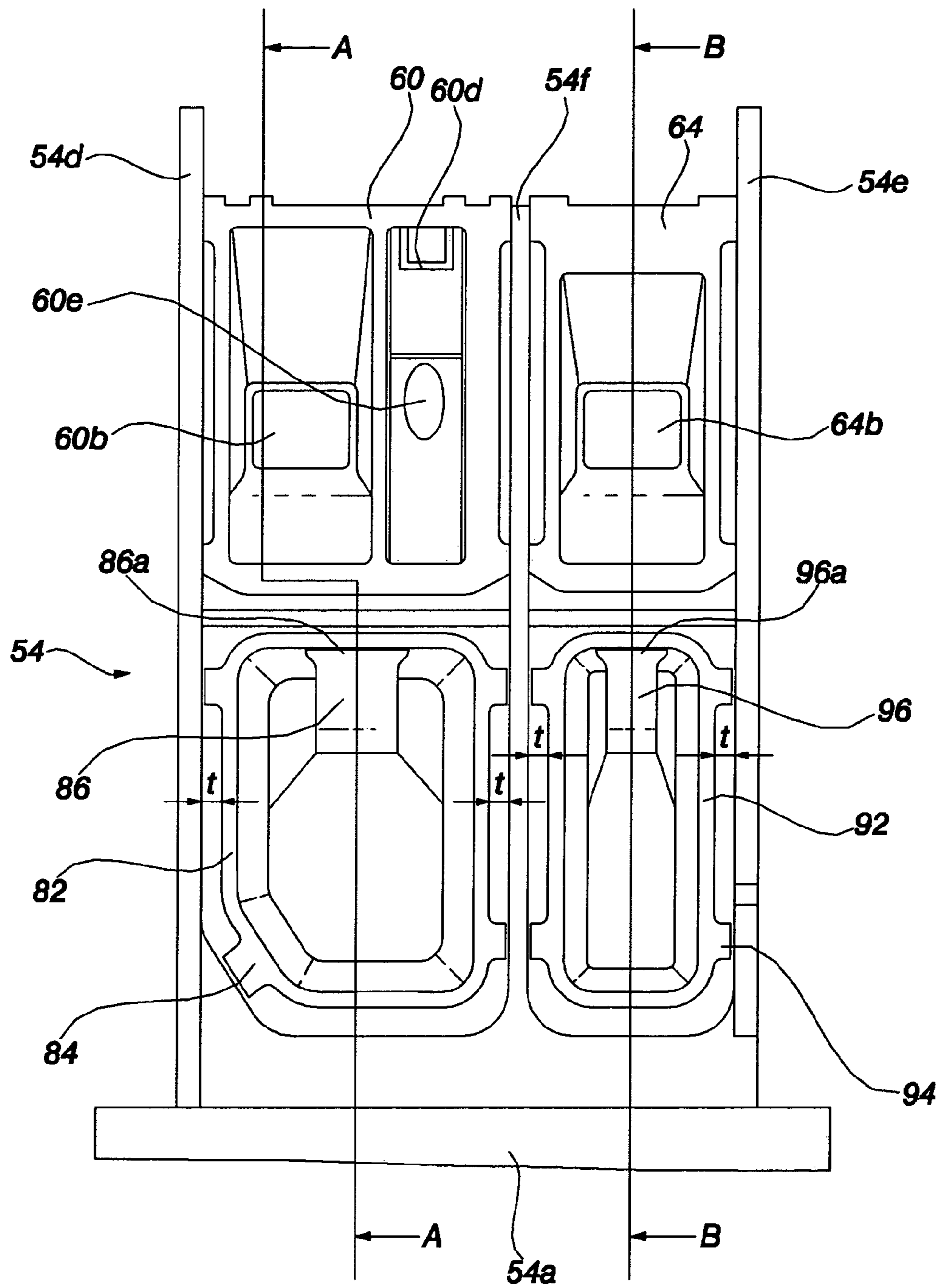


FIG. 5

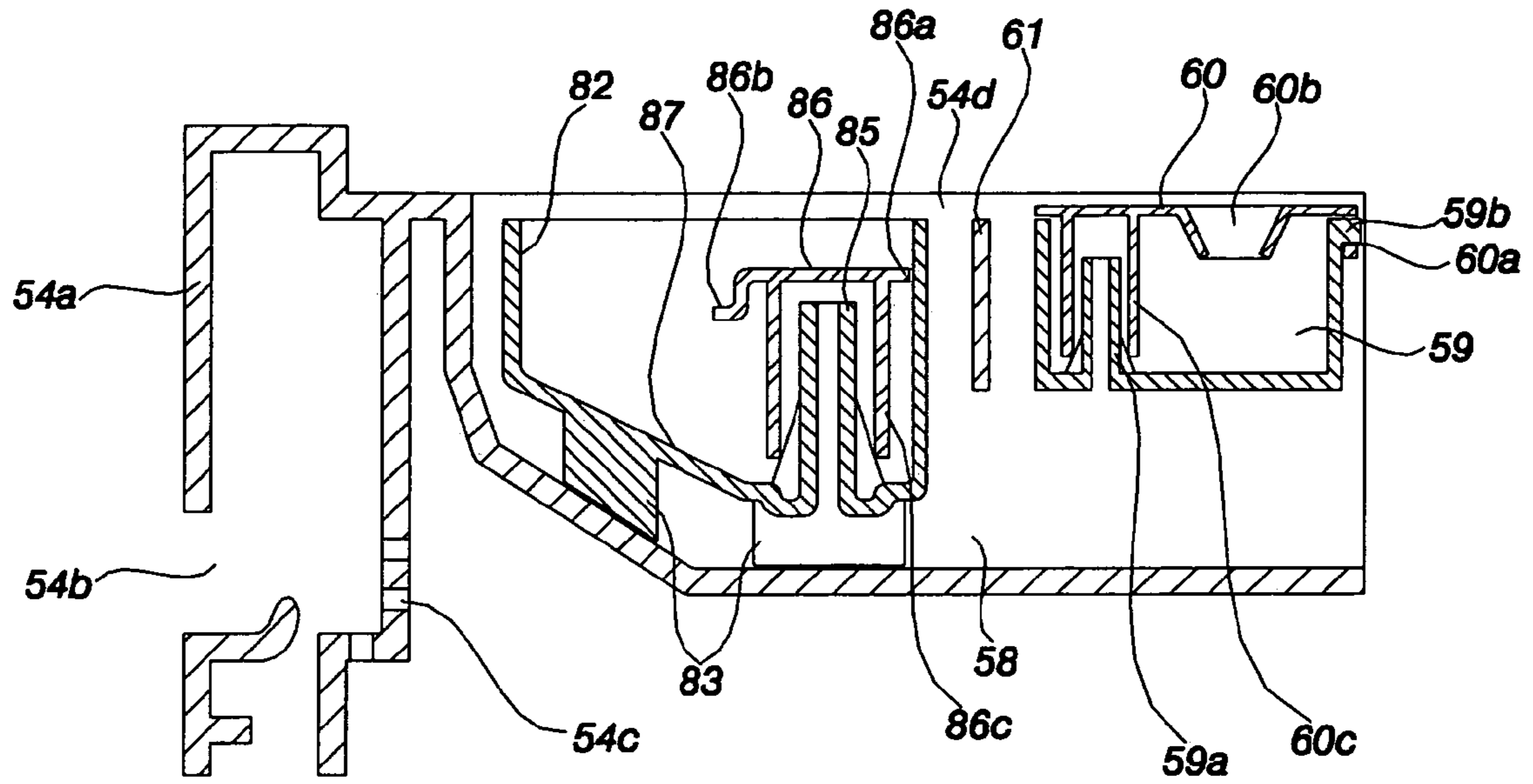
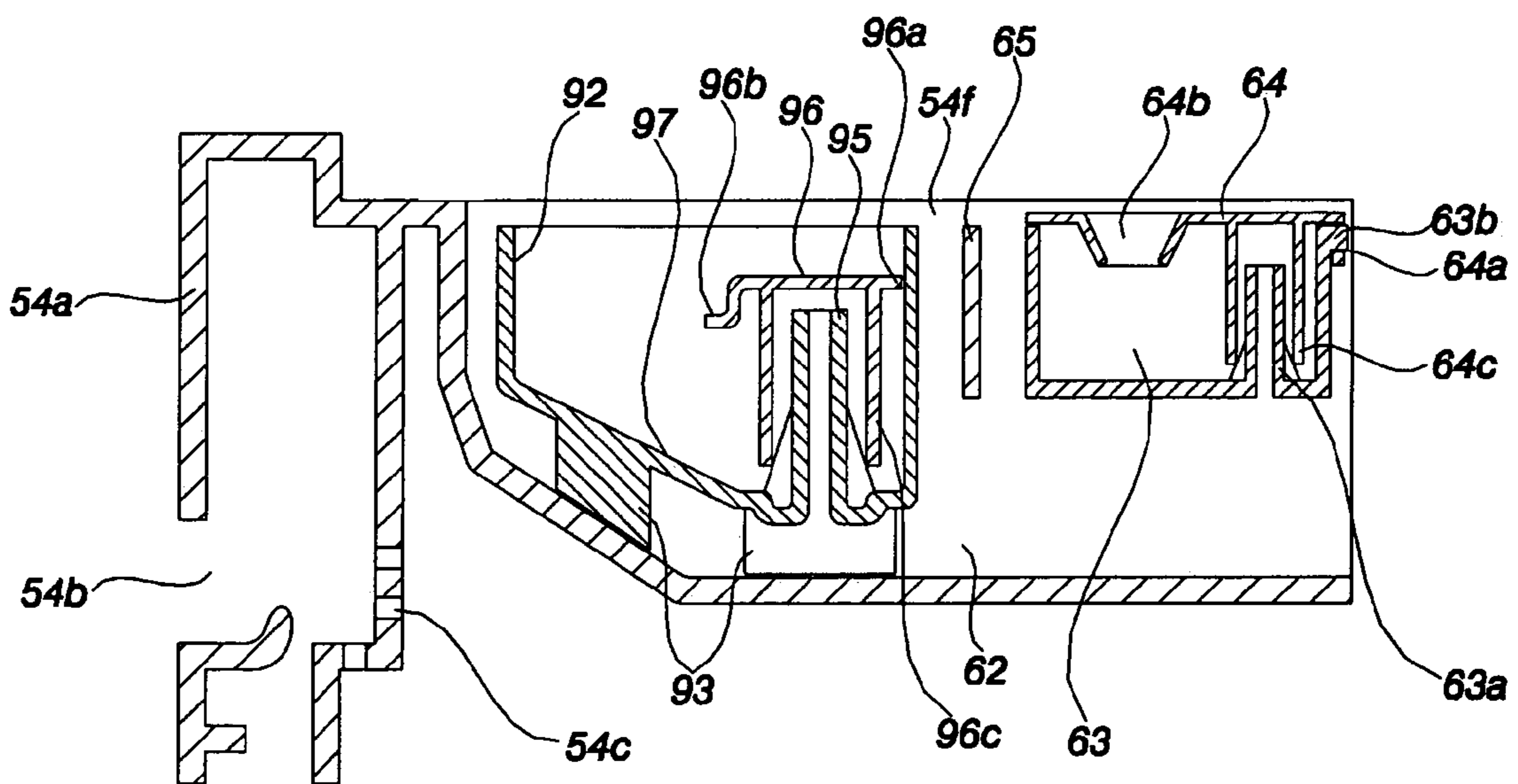


FIG. 6



DETERGENT SUPPLY APPARATUS OF WASHING MACHINE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine, more particularly, which is capable of supplying liquid detergent and water to a tub of the washing machine.

2. Description of the Related Art

A washing machine is to decontaminate dirt on clothes or bedding (hereinafter referred as "laundry") contained in a drum. It cleans laundry through washing, rinsing, dehydrating and drying.

The washing machine has a detergent supply apparatus to supply powdered detergent or fabric softener mixed with water supplied.

The use of liquid detergent is increasingly so popular that it prevents a water supply passage of a detergent container from clogging due to powdered detergent, besides, it brings more powerful washing effect.

However, the conventional detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine has no additional detergent chamber for liquid detergent but a powdered detergent chamber. Inevitably, liquid detergent is directly poured in and touched with laundry, which causes decoloration and discoloration of laundry.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine, which supplies liquid detergent together with water and protects against decoloration and discoloration of laundry.

Another object of the present invention is to provide the detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine, which makes it possible to easily place powdered detergent or liquid detergent according to circumstances.

To achieve the above and other objects of the present invention, a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine according to the present invention comprises a detergent container having a powdered detergent chamber which stores powdered detergent, and a liquid detergent container detachably set in the powdered detergent chamber, which stores liquid detergent.

The detergent container has a plurality of powdered detergent chambers, and the liquid detergent container is detachably set in each of the powdered detergent chambers.

The powdered detergent chamber is partitioned into a main detergent storing section for main washing and a preliminary detergent storing section for preliminary washing.

The liquid detergent container is furnished with a main liquid detergent container detachably set in the main detergent storing section and a subsidiary liquid detergent container detachably set in the preliminary detergent storing section.

The detergent container has a fabric softener storing section where fabric softener is accommodated and a siphon is protruded. A fabric softener cover covers the fabric softener storing section and provides a water drain passage with the siphon.

The detergent container has a bleach storing section where bleach is accommodated and a siphon is protruded. A bleach cover covers the bleach storing section and provides the water drain passage with the siphon.

A plurality of protrusions is existed in a bottom of the liquid detergent container, which makes apart its bottom from the corresponding area of the powdered detergent chamber by predetermined distance.

5 A plurality of protrusions is existed in a side of the liquid detergent container, which makes apart its side from the corresponding area of the powdered detergent chamber by predetermined distance.

Height of the liquid detergent container is lower than that of the powdered detergent chamber.

The liquid detergent container has a protruded siphon and a liquid detergent siphon cover which covers the siphon and provides the water drain passage together with the siphon.

15 The liquid detergent container has a downward sloping surface toward the siphon in a lower part.

The liquid detergent siphon cover has a straight portion which is suspended on a wall of the liquid detergent container so as to restrict its rotation.

20 The liquid detergent siphon cover has an indication portion in a stepwise manner, which shows the maximum quantity of liquid detergent.

The detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine according to the present invention comprises the detergent container having the powdered detergent chamber, and the liquid detergent container detachably set in the powdered detergent chamber.

30 The detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine according to the present invention comprises a housing installed in the washing machine, which is open at its front and top, the detergent container having the detergent chambers, which is inserted in the housing through a front of the housing, a dispenser having a plurality of water supply passages to inject water into the detergent chamber, which covers a top surface of the housing, and the liquid detergent container detachably set in the detergent chamber so as to mix and supply liquid detergent and water together.

The detergent container is partitioned into the detergent sections.

40 The detergent chambers include the main detergent storing section, the preliminary detergent storing section, the bleach storing section, and the fabric softener storing section.

The liquid detergent container has the protruded siphon and the liquid detergent siphon cover which covers the siphon and provides the water drain passage together with the siphon.

45 The washing machine according to the present invention comprises a cabinet, a tub mounted in the cabinet, a drum rotatably set in the tub, the housing installed in the cabinet, the detergent container having the powdered detergent chamber so as to mix and supply powdered detergent and water together, which is inserted into the housing, the dispenser having the water supply passage to inject water into the powdered detergent chamber, which covers the top surface of the housing, and the liquid detergent container detachably set in the powdered detergent chamber so as to mix and supply liquid detergent and water together.

55 According to the present invention, the liquid detergent container is installed in the powdered detergent chamber of the detergent container, which mixes and supplies liquid detergent and water together. Liquid detergent can be simply supplied. As liquid detergent diluted with water soaks laundry, decoloration and discoloration of laundry can be protected.

65 The liquid detergent container is detachably set in the powdered detergent chamber of the detergent container, on that account, liquid detergent or powdered detergent can be easily placed in depending on a user's intention

The detergent container has the powdered chambers and the liquid detergent container is detachably set in each of the powdered detergent chambers, on that account, liquid detergent and powdered detergent can be used together.

The powdered detergent chamber is partitioned into the main detergent storing section and the preliminary detergent storing section. The liquid detergent container is replenished with the main liquid detergent container detachably set in the main detergent storing section and the subsidiary liquid detergent container detachably set in the preliminary detergent storing section. If either the main liquid detergent container or the subsidiary liquid detergent container is installed in the detergent container, a different type of detergent can be used in a main and preliminary washing process. The washing power can be much more improved.

The bottom of the liquid detergent container is parted from that of the powdered detergent storing section by predetermined distance, on that account, liquid detergent and water can easily flow without stagnating.

The side of the liquid detergent container is parted from that of the powdered detergent chamber by predetermined distance and a top of the liquid detergent container is lower than that of the powdered detergent chamber, on that account, liquid detergent and water does not overflow into another place. It can prevent the unnecessary use of detergent.

The liquid detergent container has the protruded siphon and the liquid detergent siphon cover which covers the siphon and provides the water drain passage together with the siphon, on that account, mixing and supplying liquid detergent and water is simply possible.

The lower part of the liquid detergent container has the downward sloping surface toward the siphon, on that account, remaining liquid detergent can be minimized.

The liquid detergent siphon cover has the straight portion which is suspended on the wall of the liquid detergent container in order to restrict its rotation, on that account, an additional structure, i.e. a hook, fixing the liquid detergent siphon cover is not required and noise from the vibration of the washing machine can be minimized.

The liquid detergent siphon cover has the indication portion in a stepwise manner, which shows the maximum quantity of liquid detergent, on that account, the user can easily notice the maximum quantity of liquid detergent. It can prevent the excessive use of liquid detergent and even the overflowing of liquid detergent.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will be more clearly understood by reference to the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of the detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an exploded plan of the detergent supply apparatus in FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 4 is a plane plan of the detergent supply apparatus in FIGS. 1 and 2;

FIG. 5 is a sectional plan of the line A-A in FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a sectional plan of the line B-B in FIG. 4.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Now, the preferred embodiment of the present invention will be hereinafter described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2 is a schematic view of the detergent supply apparatus of the washing machine in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the washing machine according to the embodiment comprises a casing 2, a tub 10 suspended in a casing 2 by a shock absorber to contain water with detergent or clean water (w, hereinafter referred as "washing water"), a drum 20 rotatably set in the tub 10 to receive laundry(m), a driving motor 30 which makes the drum 20 rotate, a water supplier 40 which supplies water to the tub 10, a water drainer 45 which drains contaminated water in the tub 10 or dehydrated water from laundry(m) out of the washing machine, and the detergent supply apparatus 50 connected to the water supplier 40 in order to mix detergent in water from the water supplier 40.

The casing 2 comprises a base 3 having a damper 3a to uphold the tub 10, a cabinet 4 having a spring 4a in both sides to hang the tub 10, which is located in a top of the base 3 to surround both sides and a rear of the tub 10, a cabinet cover 5 having an entrance hole 5a in a middle to place and remove laundry(m) and a door 5b to open and close the entrance hole 5a, which is located in a front of the cabinet 4, and a top plate 6 which covers a top surface of the cabinet 4.

A control panel 7 is installed in an upper part of the cabinet cover 5 in order to manipulate the washing machine.

The control panel 7 has an entrance hole for a detergent container 7a which will be mentioned later.

An opening 12 is formed on a front of the tub 10 to allow laundry(m) to put in and out from the drum 20, and a gasket 14 is mounted around the opening 12 to prevent water from leaking and laundry(m) from separating by closely adhering to a rear surface of the door 5b.

The drum 20 has an entrance hole 21 for placing and removing laundry(m) in the front of the tub 10. A plurality of perforations 22 for going in and out washing water is existed in a circumference or the rear of the tub 10. A lifter 23 for moving upward and dropping laundry(m) is installed in an inner circumference of the tub 10. A bottom of the drum 20 is submerged in washing water(w) in the tub 10.

The driving motor 30 is set in a rear surface of the tub 10 and connected to a rear surface of the drum 20, as a shaft 31 which penetrates the rear of the tub 10 is supported by a bearing of the tub 10.

The water supplier 40 connected to an external hose 41, referring to FIG. 2, comprises a water supply valve 42 to control water supplied through the external hose 41, a plurality of water supply hoses 43 to guide water through the water supply valve 42 to the detergent supply apparatus 50, and a water supply bellows tube 44 to guide washing water through the detergent supply apparatus 50 to the inside of the tub 10.

The water supply valve 42 includes 3 cold water valves and 1 hot water valve.

The water supply hose 43 includes 3 cold water hoses and 1 hot water hose.

Though air within a housing 52 which will be mentioned later may move to the tub 10 through the water supply bellows tube 44, steam flowing backward from the tub 10 as drying or heating washing is condensed by water contained in the water supply bellow tube 44.

The water supply bellows tube **44** has a 1st bending portion **44a** in the shape of U and a 2nd bending portion **44b** in the shape of ∩, on one side. Water is sank to a bottom of an inner horizontal portion in the 1st bending portion **44a**, and a top of the horizontal portion in the 1st bending portion **44a** is placed higher than a bottom of the horizontal portion in the 2nd bending portion **44b** by predetermined height (h). An air passage is made in the top of the inner horizontal portion in the 1st bending portion **44a** and in the inner horizontal portion in the 2nd bending portion **44b**.

The water drainer **45** comprises a water drain bellows tube **46** connected to an overflow of the tub **10** in order to discharge washing water into the tub **10**, a water drain pump **47** to pump water drained to the water drain bellows tube **46**, and a water drain hose **48** to guide washing water pumped by the water drain pump **47** out of the washing machine.

As seen in FIGS. **1** and **2**, the detergent supply apparatus **50** comprises the housing **52** placed in one end of the control panel **7** and connected to the water supply bellows tube **44**, which is open at its front and top, a detergent container **54** installed in the housing **52** to move forward through a front of the housing **52**, a cover **70** (hereinafter referred as “dispenser”) to cover a top surface of the housing **52**, installed in a top of the housing **52** and to supply water to the detergent container **54**, connected to the water supply hose **43**, and a liquid detergent container **80** detachably set in the detergent container **54** so as to mix and supply liquid detergent and water supplied to the detergent container **54**.

FIG. **3** is an exploded plan of the detergent supply apparatus in FIGS. **1** and **2**, and FIG. **4** is a plane plan of the detergent supply apparatus in FIGS. **1** and **2**. FIG. **5** is a sectional plan of the line A-A in FIG. **4**, and FIG. **6** is a sectional plan of the line B-B in FIG. **4**.

As illustrated in FIG. **3** or **6**, an outlet **53** is formed on the housing **52**, where water and detergent dropped from the detergent container **54** is discharged into the water supply bellows tube **44**.

A handle hole **54b** is formed on a front portion **54a** of the detergent container **54**, which is open at its rear and top.

A ventilation hole **54c** is formed at a back of the handle hole **54b** so as to inflow external air in the housing **52**.

The detergent container **54** has a powdered detergent chamber **56** to mix and supply powdered detergent and water.

A partition wall **54f** is formed in the detergent container **54**, dividing the powdered detergent chamber **56** to include a main detergent storing section **58** and a preliminary detergent storing section **62**, which is separated from both sidewalls **54d**, **54e** of the detergent container **54** by predetermined distance.

The detergent container **54** has a bleach storing section **59** where bleach is accommodated and a siphon **59a** is protruded.

As shown in FIGS. **3** and **5**, the bleach storing section **59** is positioned in a rear and top of the main detergent storing section **58**. Its bottom is distant from the corresponding area of the main detergent storing section **58** by predetermined distance, which is open at its top.

A bleach cover **60** is provided with the siphon **59a** and a water drain passage in the bleach storing section **59**.

The bleach cover **60** is enough to cover a top surface of the bleach storing section **59**, a hook hole **60a** suspended in a hook **59b** and a bleach input hole **60b** for placing bleach are formed therein.

A bottom of the bleach cover **60** has a bleach siphon **60c** that bleach and water moves upward at an interval with the siphon **59a**, apart from the siphon **59a** by predetermined distance.

The bleach cover **60** has a hanging protrusion **60d** suspended in the control panel **7** or the dispenser **70** when the detergent container **54** is pulled forward, and an elastic portion **60e** which enables to push by lowering the hanging protrusion not to make the hanging protrusion **60d** suspended in the control panel **7** or the dispenser **70**.

A main detergent clogging-protection rib **61** is formed in the detergent container **54** so as to prevent a bottom of the bleach storing section **59** from clogging, apart from a front of the bleach storing section **59** and from a bottom of the main detergent storing section **58** by predetermined distance.

The detergent container **54** has a fabric softener storing section **63** where fabric softener is accommodated and a siphon **63a** is protruded.

As shown in FIGS. **3** and **6**, the fabric softener storing section **63** is positioned in a rear and top of the preliminary detergent storing section **62**. Its lower portion is distant from the corresponding area of the preliminary detergent storing section **62** by predetermined distance, which is open at its top.

A fabric softener cover **64** is enough to cover a top surface of the fabric softener storing section **63**, a hook hole **64a** suspended in a hook **63b** and a fabric softener input hole **64b** for placing fabric softener are formed therein.

A bottom of the fabric softener cover **64** has a fabric softener siphon **64c** that fabric softener and water moves upward at an interval with the siphon **63a**, apart from the siphon **63a** by predetermined distance.

A preliminary detergent clogging-protection rib **65** is formed in the preliminary detergent storing section **62** so as to prevent a bottom of the fabric softener storing section **63** from clogging, apart from a front of the fabric softener storing section **63** and from a bottom of the preliminary detergent storing section **62** by predetermined distance.

The dispenser **70**, as illustrated in FIG. **3**, comprises an upside panel **72** and a downside panel **78** having a main detergent water supply passage **73**, a preliminary detergent water supply passage **74**, a bleach water supply passage **75**, and a fabric softener water supply passage **76**.

In one end either of the upside panel **72** or the downside panel **78**, a main detergent water supply rib **73a** for the main detergent water supply passage **73**, a preliminary detergent water supply rib **74a** for the preliminary detergent water supply passage **74**, a bleach water supply rib **75a** for the bleach water supply passage **75**, and a fabric softener water supply rib **76a** for the fabric softener water supply passage **76** are located.

The downside panel **72** has a plurality of main detergent water supply holes **73b** in a front and top of the main detergent storing section **58**, a plurality of preliminary detergent water supply holes **74b** in a front and top of the preliminary detergent storing section **62**, a plurality of bleach water supply holes **75b** in a front and top of the bleach storing section **59**, and a plurality of fabric softener water supply holes **76b** in a front and top of the fabric softener storing section **63**.

The main detergent water supply rib **73a** has a bypass hole **73c** to make some water through the main detergent water supply passage **73** detoured to a front of the main detergent water supply holes **73b**.

The preliminary detergent water supply rib **74a** has a bypass hole **74c** to make some water through the preliminary detergent water supply passage **74** detoured to a front of the preliminary detergent water supply holes **74b**.

The upside panel **72** and the downside panel **78** are assembled by melting bond.

In one end either of the upside panel **72** or the downside panel **78**, there are a 1st hose connection **79a** connected to the 1st cold water hose **43a** in order to supply cold water to the

bleach water supply passage 75, and a 2nd, 3rd, 4th hose connection 79b, 79c, 79d connected to the 2nd, 3rd cold water hose 43b, 43c and the hot water hose 43d to optionally supply cold water or hot water to the main detergent water supply passage 73, the preliminary detergent water supply passage 74, and the fabric softener water supply passage 76.

The liquid detergent container 80, as referring to FIGS. 3 or 6, is possible to furnish with both a main liquid detergent container 82 detachably set in the main detergent storing section 58 and a subsidiary liquid detergent container 92 detachably set in the preliminary detergent storing section 62. Or, it is possible to furnish with either the liquid detergent container 82 detachably set in the main detergent storing section 58, or the liquid detergent container 92 detachably set in the preliminary detergent storing section 62.

The main liquid detergent container 82, as referring to FIG. 5, is inserted into a front of the main detergent storing section 58. Its height is lower than that of the main detergent storing section 58 when installed.

The subsidiary liquid detergent container 92, as referring to FIG. 6, is inserted into a front of the preliminary detergent storing section 62. Its height is lower than that of the preliminary detergent storing section 62 when installed.

The liquid detergent container 82, 92, as referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, comprises a plurality of protrusions 83, 93 on a bottom of the powdered detergent chamber 56 to separate from the bottom of the powdered detergent chamber 56 by predetermined distance.

As illustrated in FIGS. 3 and 4, the width of the liquid detergent container 82, 92 is narrower than that of a sidewall 54d, 54e, 54f of the powdered detergent chamber 56. Thus, there is a slit(t) between the sidewall 54d, 54e, 54f of the powdered detergent chamber 56 and that of the liquid detergent container. A plurality of protrusions 84, 94 is existed to separate from the sidewalls 54d, 54e, 54f of the powdered detergent chamber 56 by predetermined distance.

Since overflowed water from the liquid detergent container 82, 92 is drained through the slit(t), it does not flow to another place.

The liquid detergent container 82, 92 has a protruded siphon 85, 95 and a liquid detergent siphon cover 86, 96 which covers the siphon 85, 95 and provides the water drain passage together with the siphon.

The liquid detergent container 82, 92 has a downward sloping surface 87, 97 toward the siphon 85, 95 in a lower part.

The liquid detergent siphon cover 86, 96 has a straight portion 86a, 96a which is suspended on a wall of the liquid detergent container 82, 92 so as to restrict its rotation.

The liquid detergent siphon cover 86, 96 has an indication portion 86b, 96b in a stepwise manner, which shows the maximum quantity of liquid detergent.

The liquid detergent siphon cover 86, 96 has a liquid detergent siphon 86c, 96c where liquid detergent and water moves upward at an interval with the siphon 85, 95, apart from the siphon 85, 95 by predetermined distance.

The process for the present invention will be described below.

Supposing that liquid detergent is used for the preliminary and main washing process, first, the main liquid detergent container 82 is inserted into the main detergent storing section 58 and the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92 is inserted into the preliminary detergent storing section 62, then, liquid detergent is poured into the main liquid detergent container 82 and the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92.

Laundry(m) is received in the drum 20, the door 5b is closed, and the control panel 7 orders the washing machine to operate. The washing machine checks a washing mode and makes water supply started.

At least one of the water supply valves 42 supplies water supplied through the external hose 41 to the preliminary detergent water supply passage 74 within the dispenser 70. Water falls toward the front of the preliminary detergent storing section 62 through the preliminary detergent water supply holes 74b.

The water supply valve 42 operated to supply water to the preliminary detergent water supply passage 74 allows water to pass intermittently in order to prevent liquid detergent or water from overflowing in case that excessive water is supplied to the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92.

That is, the water supply valve 42 operated to supply water to the preliminary detergent water supply 74 becomes on for the 1st setting time, and becomes off for the 2nd setting time. Such on and off is repeated.

The 1st setting time and the 2nd setting time are advisable to set depending on a capacity of the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92.

Water fallen toward the front of the preliminary detergent storing section 62 is contained in the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92 and mixed with liquid detergent which has been put therein.

Mixed liquid detergent and water, as illustrated in FIG. 6, ascends between the siphon 95 of the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92 and the liquid detergent siphon 96c of the liquid detergent siphon cover 96, and descends through the siphon 95 of the subsidiary liquid detergent container 92, then, falls toward the bottom of the preliminary detergent storing section 62.

Liquid detergent and water fallen toward the bottom of the preliminary detergent storing section 62 moves to a back of the preliminary detergent storing section 62, subsequently to the housing 52. After going through the outlet 53 of the housing 52, the water supply bellow tube 44 in turn and getting to the tub 10, preliminary washing is operated when the drum 20 rotates by the driving motor 30.

When preliminary washing is completed and main washing is started, at least one of the water supply valves 42 supplies water supplied through the external hose 41 to the main detergent water supply passage 73 within the dispenser 70. Water falls toward the front of the main detergent storing section 58 through the main detergent water supply holes 73b.

The water supply valve 42 operated to supply water to the main detergent water supply passage 73 allows water to pass intermittently in order to prevent liquid detergent or water from overflowing like preliminary washing.

That is, the water supply valve 42 operated to supply water to the main detergent water supply 73 becomes on for the 3rd setting time, and becomes off for the 4th setting time. Such on and off is repeated.

The 3rd setting time and the 4th setting time are advisable to set depending on the capacity of the main liquid detergent container 82.

Water fallen toward the front of the main detergent storing section 58 is contained in the main liquid detergent container 82 and mixed with liquid detergent which has been put therein.

Mixed liquid detergent and water, as illustrated in FIG. 5, ascends between the siphon 85 of the main liquid detergent container 82 and the liquid detergent siphon 86c of the liquid detergent siphon cover 86, and descends through the siphon 85 of the main liquid detergent container 82, then, falls toward the bottom of the main detergent storing section 58.

Liquid detergent and water fallen toward the bottom of the main detergent storing section **58** moves to a back of the main detergent storing section **58**, subsequently to the housing **52**. After getting to the tub **10** like preliminary washing, main washing is operated when the drum **20** rotates by the driving motor **30**.

The washing machine operates main washing and drains contaminated water out of the washing machine. The next operation is performed according to an option for rinsing or dehydrating.

When rinse is chosen, the water supply valve **42** is turned on and clean water is supplied. Clean water, in the same manner as the above washing, passes within the dispenser **70** and falls toward the main liquid detergent container **82** or the subsidiary liquid detergent container **92**. It moves to the back of the main detergent storing section **58** or the preliminary detergent storing section **62**, subsequently to the housing **52**.

Water moved to the housing **52** is supplied to the tub **10** and rinses laundry when drum **20** rotates by the driving motor **30**.

The washing machine operates main washing and drains contaminated water out of the washing machine. It repeats water supply, rinse and drain according to the setting frequency.

Then, when dehydration is chosen, the drum **20** rotates with high speed by the driving motor **30** and moisture left in laundry(m) is dehydrated.

Supposing that bleach is used for washing, bleach is poured into the bleach storing section **59** and the washing machine is operated. At least one of the water supply valves **42** supplies water supplied through the external hose **41** to the bleach water supply passage **75** within the dispenser **70**. Water falls toward the back of the main detergent storing section **58** through the bleach water supply holes **75b**.

The water supply valve **42** operated to supply water to the bleach water supply passage **75** allows water to pass intermittently in order to prevent bleach or water from overflowing like preliminary washing or main washing.

That is, the water supply valve **42** operated to supply water to the bleach water supply passage **75** becomes on for the 5th setting time, and becomes off for the 6th setting time. Such on and off is repeated.

The 5th setting time and the 6th setting time are advisable to set depending on the capacity of the bleach storing section **59**.

Water fallen toward the back of the main detergent storing section **58** is contained in the bleach storing section **59** and mixed with bleach which has been put therein.

Mixed bleach and water ascends between the siphon **59a** of the bleach storing section **59** and the bleach siphon **60c** of the bleach cover **60**, and descends through the siphon **59a** of the bleach storing section **59**, then, falls toward the bottom of the main detergent storing section **58**. Fallen bleach and water is supplied for the tub **10** like preliminary washing and main washing. With that, it improves washing power.

Supposing that fabric softner is used for the rinsing process, fabric softner is poured in the fabric softner storing section **63** and the washing machine is operated. The washing machine rinses more than once and fabric softner is supplied together with water in the last rinsing stage.

Before the last rinse, at least one of the water supply valves **42** supplies water supplied through the external hose **41** to the fabric softner water supply passage **76** within the dispenser **70**. Water falls toward the back of the preliminary detergent storing section **62** through the fabric softner water supply holes **76b**.

The water supply valve **42** operated to supply water to the fabric softner water supply passage **76** allows water to pass

intermittently in order to prevent fabric softner or water from overflowing like preliminary washing or main washing.

That is, the water supply valve **42** operated to supply water to the fabric softner water supply passage **76** becomes on for the 7th setting time, and becomes off for the 8th setting time. Such on and off is repeated.

The 7th setting time and the 8th setting time are advisable to set depending on the capacity of the fabric softner storing section **63**.

Water fallen toward the back of the preliminary detergent storing section **62** is contained in the fabric softner storing section **63** and mixed with fabric softner which has been put therein.

Mixed fabric softner and water ascends between the siphon **63a** of the fabric softner storing section **63** and the fabric softner siphon **64c** of the fabric softner cover **64**, and descends through the siphon **63a** of the fabric softner storing section **63**, then, falls toward the bottom of the preliminary detergent storing section **62**. Fallen fabric softner and water is supplied to the tub **10** like preliminary washing and main washing. With that, it helps laundry(m) more softened.

Although the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been disclosed for illustrative purposes, those skilled in the art will appreciate that various modifications, additions and substitutions are possible, without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention as disclosed in the accompanying claims.

For example, the case that the liquid detergent container is inserted into either the main detergent storing section **58** or the preliminary detergent storing section **62** should be interpreted as the claim to the present invention.

As described above, a liquid detergent container in accordance with a detergent supply apparatus of a washing machine is installed in a powdered detergent chamber of a detergent container, which mixes and supplies liquid detergent and water together. Supply of liquid detergent is simple. Liquid detergent diluted with water soaks laundry, therefore, decoloration and discoloration of laundry can be protected.

The liquid detergent container is detachably set in the powdered detergent chamber of the detergent container, therefore, liquid detergent or powdered detergent can be easily put in depending on a user's intention

The detergent container has the powdered detergent chambers and the liquid detergent container is detachably set in one of the powdered detergent chambers, therefore, liquid detergent and powdered detergent can be used together.

The powdered detergent chamber is divided into a main detergent storing section and a preliminary detergent storing section. The liquid detergent container includes a main liquid detergent container detachably set in the main detergent storing section and a subsidiary liquid detergent container detachably set in the preliminary detergent storing section. If either the main liquid detergent container or the subsidiary liquid detergent container is installed in the detergent container, a different type of detergent can be used in main washing and preliminary washing. Therefore, the washing power can be much more improved.

A bottom of the liquid detergent container is parted from that of the powdered detergent chamber by predetermined distance, therefore, liquid detergent and water can easily flow without stagnating.

A side of the liquid detergent container is parted from that of the powdered detergent chamber by predetermined distance and a top of the liquid detergent container is lower than that of the powdered detergent chamber, therefore, liquid detergent and water does not overflow into another place. It can prevent the unnecessary use of detergent.

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The liquid detergent container has a protruded siphon and a liquid detergent siphon cover which covers the siphon and provides a water drain passage together with the siphon, therefore, mixing and supplying liquid detergent and water is simply possible.

The bottom of the liquid detergent container has a downward sloping surface toward the siphon, therefore, remaining liquid detergent can be minimized.

The liquid detergent siphon cover has a straight portion which is suspended on a wall of the liquid detergent container in order to restrict its rotation, therefore, an additional structure, i.e. a hook, fixing the liquid detergent siphon cover is not required and noise from the vibration of the washing machine can be minimized.

The liquid detergent siphon cover has an indication portion in a stepwise manner, which shows the maximum quantity of liquid detergent, therefore, the user can easily notice the maximum quantity of liquid detergent. It can prevent the excessive use of liquid detergent, even the overflowing of liquid detergent.

What is claimed is:

1. A washing machine, comprising:

a cabinet;
a tub installed in the cabinet;
a drum rotatably set in the tub;
a housing installed in the cabinet;
a detergent box including a powdered detergent container, said detergent box inserted into the housing;
a controllable water supply; and
a dispenser having a water supply passage connected to the controllable water supply and having water supply holes configured to supply water into the detergent box, said dispenser covering a top surface of the housing,
wherein at least one liquid detergent box is detachably provided in the powdered detergent container,
wherein detergent box is configured to be slidably inserted from a front face of the washing machine to a position in the housing under the water supply holes of the dispenser, and

wherein a plurality of side protrusions are formed at an upper portion of at least one side wall of the liquid detergent box such that an opening, through which water overflowed from the liquid detergent box passes downward, is formed between the side wall of the liquid detergent box and a side wall of the detergent box.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the powdered detergent container is partitioned into a main detergent container and a preliminary detergent container, the main and preliminary detergent containers arranged side-by-side in a direction orthogonal to the detergent box insertion direction, wherein the at least one liquid detergent box includes a first liquid detergent box detachably provided in the main detergent container, and a second liquid detergent box detachably provided in the preliminary detergent container, the second liquid detergent box being smaller than the first liquid detergent box.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a first and second internal liquid detergent siphon tube projected within the first and second liquid detergent boxes, respectively; and

a first and second liquid detergent siphon cover connected to the first and second internal liquid detergent siphon tubes, respectively, and provided over the respective first and second liquid detergent boxes.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein each of the first and second liquid detergent siphon covers comprises:

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a corresponding external liquid detergent siphon tube aligned with the corresponding internal liquid detergent siphon tube,

a corresponding display part configured to display an input quantity of liquid detergent, and

a corresponding straight part configured to restrict a rotation of the corresponding liquid detergent siphon cover.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein an upper end of each of the first and second liquid detergent boxes is set lower than an upper end of the powdered detergent container.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein a bottom of each of the first and second liquid detergent boxes is inclined downward at a predetermined angle toward the corresponding internal liquid detergent siphon tube.

7. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein each of the first and second liquid detergent boxes further comprises:

a corresponding bottom projection separating a bottom of the powdered detergent container and a bottom of the corresponding liquid detergent box.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, each bottom projection comprising:

a tip confronting the bottom of the powdered detergent container tilted at a predetermined angle.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein each of the first and second liquid detergent boxes further comprises:

a lateral side projection separating a sidewall of the powdered detergent container and a lateral side of the liquid detergent box.

10. The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a bleach container behind the powdered detergent container in the apparatus insertion direction, the bleach container configured to leave a gap from a bottom of the powdered detergent container, the bleach container configured to operate in conjunction with the controllable water supply to supply a bleach and water, the controllable water supply being a multi-chamber water supply, the bleach container configured to be positioned under a bleach portion of the multi-chamber water supply when the apparatus is installed in the washing machine.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a bleach siphon tube provided within the bleach container;
a first hook provided on an outside portion of the bleach container; and

a bleach siphon cover having an external bleach siphon tube aligned with the bleach siphon tube and a first hook hole confronting the first hook provided over the bleach container.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising:

a first supply hole provided in the bleach siphon cover and configured to allow the bleach and/or water to pass through.

13. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:

a softening agent container behind the powdered detergent container in the apparatus insertion direction, the bleach container configured to leave a predetermined gap from a bottom of the powdered detergent container, the softening agent container configured to operate in conjunction with the controllable water supply to supply a softening agent and water, the softening agent container configured to be positioned under a softening agent portion of the multi-chamber water supply when the apparatus is installed in the washing machine.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

a softening agent siphon tube provided within the softening agent container;

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a second hook provided on an outside portion of the softening agent container; and
a softening agent siphon cover provided over the softening agent container and having an external softening agent siphon tube aligned with the softening agent siphon tube 5
and a second hook hole confronting the second hook.

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15. The apparatus of claim **14**, further comprising:
a second supply hole provided in the softening agent siphon cover and configured to allow the softening agent and/or water to pass through.

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